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the will are the first to go, while the simplest, broadest and most general movements, and those least associated with will are the last to be retained." Thus the drunkard looses the power to write first, then to talk clearly, then to hold his glass steady, then to walk, then to sit, and by the same law his breathing begins to fail, while his heart is unaffected, and the accessory parts of the breathing apparatus fail before the fundamental parts. Hence the tendency is to death by asphyxia.<sup>1</sup> Independent movement of the eyes, and especially divergence, is said to *always* occur in coma, and negative the possibility of hysteria. The ordinary fatigues of the day and a hearty meal check the most complex, delicate and precise movements of the mind. The same pathological event that enfeebles activity enfeebles mentation, and indeed every part of the organism. It is concluded that the highest centres represent in more or less degree every part of the organism. The functions of the brain are not "segregated in separated encapsulated portions of grey matter," and the doctrine of nerve centres "is rapidly becoming like so many doctrines before it, a fetishism." Obscure symptoms used to be called "reflex;" later they were due to "incoördination," a still more vague and sonorous expression of unusual cause, and now there are not only psychic, but trophic, and even glyco-genic centres. To invent new centres *ad libitum* that may be both destroyed to account for defect and discharged to account for excessive action, shows how far localization has run mad. It belongs to lower and not to higher centres. The author's plea is for "universal representation of the highest nervous centres." This view assimilates coma to insanity as a "fulminating" form of it, and though the stages of insanity may be so prolonged that the relation of stages may be lost, both illustrate the one fundamental law of dissolution, and there is no form whatever of either that may not have its counterpart in a case of drunkenness.

*Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Militärpsychosen.* W. SOMER. Allg. Zeitsch. f. Psychiatrie. 1886.

The peculiar psychoses resulting from the excitement and fatigue of military life and war have never been adequately studied. During active campaigning the medical staff of the army is otherwise employed, and save a few treatises on the simulation of diseases by soldiers and recruits, the literature on the subject is very meager. The basis of this article is mainly the clinical records of the lunatic asylum for soldiers in Allenberg, East Prussia, yet here diseases which developed after discharge from the army are ignored. The consequences of insanity in the service are very grave, and it is much more frequent than in civil life. Most soldiers are able-

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<sup>1</sup>See the conclusions of S. Weir Mitchell and E. T. Reichert in their very valuable "Researches upon the Venom of Poisonous Serpents," Smithsonian contribution, No. 647, 1886, p. 50. "These results all go to establish the conclusion that the respiratory centre is the most vulnerable part of the nervous system, that the coördinating and volitional centres are then prominently affected, that the sensory part of the spinal cord and sensory nerves are next attacked, and that the motor parts of the cord and the motor nerves are the last to succumb."

bodied, and between 20 and 25 years of age. From statistics gathered from various sources Somer concludes that the morbidity for psychic diseases is 0.027 per cent. for German infantry, 0.033 for Austria, 0.04 for France, 0.05 for Italy, and 0.16 for England. Long service in the colonies, involving fatigue in bad climates, are regarded as the cause of the high percentage for English soldiers. Psychic diseases are strikingly more frequent among officers than private soldiers. All these differences, however, between military and civil liabilities, are reduced almost to nothing in time of peace. The prevalent form of nervous disease resulting from war is paralysis, due to psychic and somatic exhaustion. Not only is war so deleterious in this respect that greater facility of exemption should be allowed those predisposed, but the prognosis of psychoses, due to active army service, is more unfavorable than for similar symptoms originating in civil life. In examining those entering the army, closest scrutiny should be given to the heredity and earlier life, with a view of reducing the too large percentage of military psychoses.

*Die punctförmig begrenzte Reizung des Froschrückenmarkes.* W. SIRO-TININ. Arch. f. Anat. u. Physiol. 1887. pp. 154.

It was known from careful series of investigations that when a stimulus is applied to the central end of the spinal cord, regular movements in the limbs are caused by means of nerves of deeper origin belonging to the lateral, and probably parts of the anterior tracts. Conversely stimulus of the lower end of cross-sections of the cord causes reflex movements by means of motor nerves from roots above. Finally it is known that a very brief stimulus of the ganglion column of the anterior horn causes strong and prolonged tetanizing effect in the nerves that originate here. The author, working under Ludwig's direction, devised the following ingenious and more exact method of extending our knowledge of the cord. The cord of the frog was well exposed from behind along most of its length. A sewing needle of smallest size was sharpened for three mm., with a lancet-formed blade, and of such size that the half of an average cord could afford room for ten thrusts, side by side. An average stab of one-tenth of a millimetre in depth would cut or displace sixty fibres. The effects of these lesions were recorded on three muscles, the illeopsoas, semitendinosus and gastrocnemius. Of these the first was most sensitive from the second to the fourth vertebra, where its sensitiveness culminated and below which it rapidly declined. The second began to increase with the third and reached its maximum at the fifth vertebra, and the last reached a maximum of 100 per cent. at the seventh vertebra, where that of the first had sunk to 38. Almost the same law was observed, when, instead of sensitiveness, the height of the contraction of the muscles, or the order in time in which they began to contract, was observed. More complicated were the comparative results of the lateral stimulus of the posterior and anterior halves of the cord at different attitudes. Electrical stimuli were also applied with similar results. Incidentally an important observation was made that indicated a peculiar relation of the most outer part of the lateral column, the stimulus of which regularly affected the muscles of the same side, indicating that if the grouping is the same by mammals as